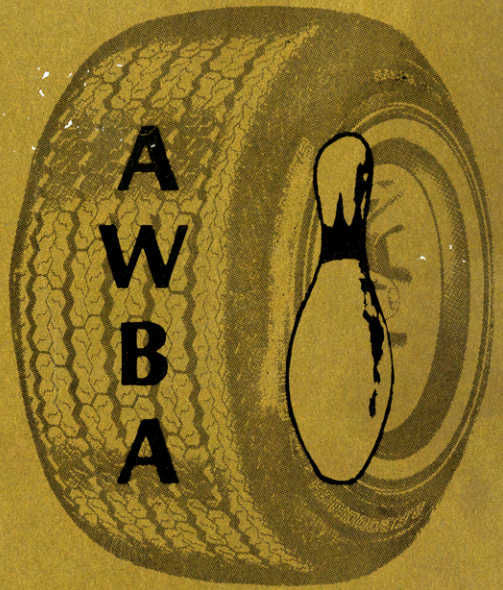
50TH ANNIVERSARY



1925-1975

MARY HURT

PRESIDENT	1971-1975
1st V. PRES	1968-1971
2nd V. PRES	1960-1968
DIRECTOR	1953-1955

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

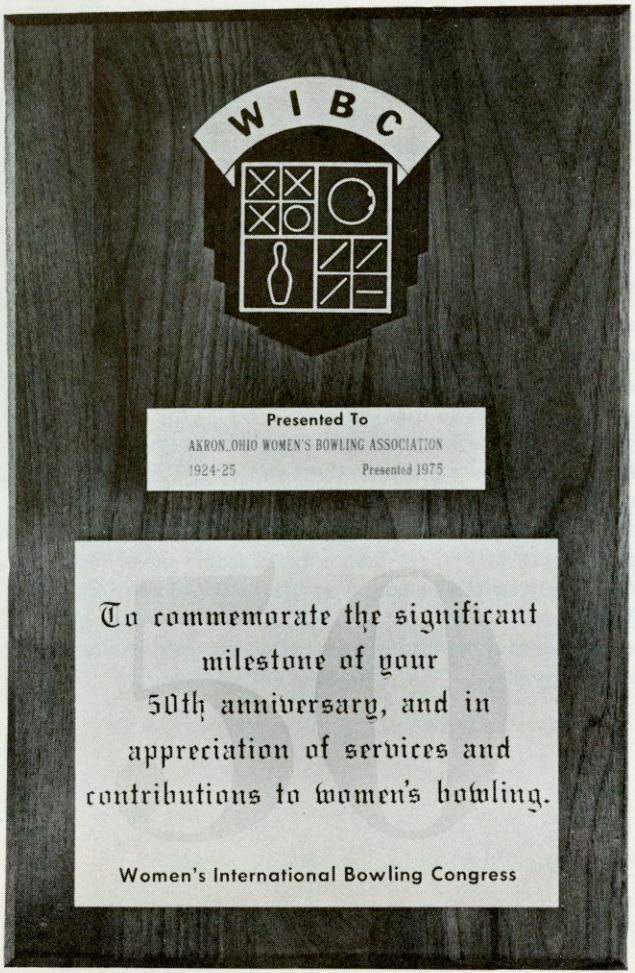
The Akron Women's Bowling Association would like to extend a warm and sincere greeting to you on this occasion of our Golden Anniversary celebration. Our first fifty years have been years of fantastic growth. We have grown because of the work and dedication of so many.

Our special thanks goes to all the sponsors and proprietors who over the years have given us their support. Without them, surely our task would have been difficult.

All of us who have been a part of the A.W.B.A. during all or part of these fifty years have gained much more than we have given if only by the lasting friendships we have made.

While you join us now to celebrate the past fifty years of our Association may we look with anticipation and excitement to the next fifty years.

WIBC PROCLAMATION


WIBC
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AKRON, OHIO WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION
1924-25
Presented 1975
To commemorate the significant milestone of your 50th anniversary, and in appreciation of services and contributions to women's bowling.
Women's International Bowling Congress

Mary Hurt, President of the Akron Women's Bowling Association, accepted with pride, the 50th Anniversary Plaque presented to Akron at the WIBC Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 28, 1975. All those from Akron and Ohio who attended were very proud to be a part of this presentation and recognition by the Women's International Bowling Congress.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT HER

"Dynamic," "Integrity," "Brilliant," "Witty," "Charming," "Eloquent" — these are the adjectives used to describe Dorothy Fuldheim, one of the most exciting talents on television. She appears nightly with an editorial on the Cleveland ABC television station and has been appearing for an unbroken 29 years and is the only woman analyst on television. Her name has become a household word, and she has become a legend in her own lifetime and is considered one of the most influential women in Ohio.

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DONITA GLENNY

SECRETARY	1960-1975
DIRECTOR	1953-1959
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PRESIDENT	1950-1954

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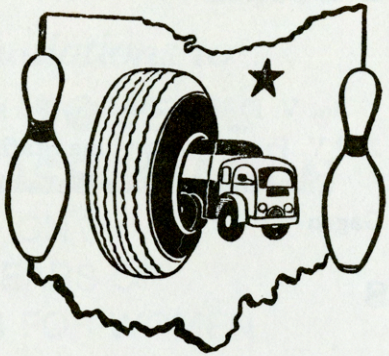

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A smile or remembered phrase,
Our loved ones live in memory —
So close in so many ways.
For how often does a sunset
Bring nostalgic thoughts to mind
Of moments that our loved ones shared
In days now left behind!
How often has a flower
Or a crystal autumn sky
Brought golden recollections
Of happy days gone by!
Yes, memory has a magic way
Of keeping loved ones near —
Ever close in mind and heart
Are the ones we hold most dear

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Donna Zimmerman (1970)
Loretta Herwick (1971)
Abbie Aston (1972)
Hattie Wigley (1972)
Lou Calvert (1973)
* Lucille Kuhn (1973)
Dorothy Focht (1974)
* Marion Frank (1974)
Josephine Stafinski (1975)
Doris Roe (1975)

* Deceased

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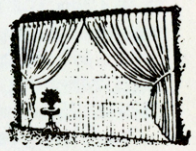

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THE A.W.B.A. — 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Early in the 19th Century, the game of bowling began to attract the attention of a great many people. But because of the environment of the bowling "alleys," very few women had the courage to enter what was primarily man's domain. Fortunately for Akron, there were a few women who had that courage and by their actions, these women unwittingly set the stage for the creation of the Akron Women's Bowling Association.

It was in October, 1925, with the help of Jo Mraz, the first Cleveland Association secretary, that the A.W.B.A. became a reality. Since its inception 50 years ago, in the men's coatroom of the Masonic Temple, this Organization has become the 4th largest association in the State, and ranks 25th among leagues sanctioned by the Women's International Bowling Congress. The A.W.B.A. has grown in 50 years to proportions that surely were inconceivable to its founders. Beginning with a membership of 38 in 1925, the Association had grown to slightly more than 4,100 members at the time of its 25th Anniversary in October of 1950. In the following 25 years, the membership increased at a torrid pace, reaching a total membership of 23,230 at the end of the 1974-1975 season.

Over the years, bowling has progressed from dingy smoke-filled rooms to beautifully decorated facilities. Today's bowling establishments have become family entertainment centers with carpeted concourses to provide ample space for spectators, well-equipped and supervised nurseries for the tots, lunch counters for the bowlers' convenience and tastefully decorated lounges, often featuring bands and other entertainment, for the adults. All these comforts, plus scientifically conditioned lanes, and automatic pinsetters and scoring devices, have played an important part in attracting the public to become active participants in the game of bowling.

Bowling attire also had to undergo revoluntionary changes. The proper attire for a lady of 1925 was not necessarily the proper attire for a bowling lady of 1925. The lady bowler's dress met the high-top bowling shoes at the ankle. Eventually the styles changed from long conservative bowling dresses to today's styles of comfortable skirts and coordinating tops. The emphasis is not only good looks, but comfort for the individual bowler.

The game of bowling is primarily known as a team sport. Some of Akron's more prominent teams in the early years of bowling were the Kandy Kids, winner of the first A.W.B.A. City Tournament; Isaly Dairy; Kaase's; and Weather-Seal. Then came the Kirby Sweepers, Sheriff Bob Smith's, A.B.C. Cleaner's, Ace Mitchell Shur-Hook's, Bowlers' Pride Grips, Cherry's Steak House, all well known throughout the State. Most recently, notable teams are Knafel Pontiac; Iz Lonier's, who rolled a 1,111 game this past season; and the Open Pantry team that rolled a 3,134 three-game series. Both of these scores were among the top ten in the nation for the 1974-1975 bowling season.

Though bowling is a team sport, the individual bowler is one of the most important factors in organized bowling and individual bowlers must begin with our founder and first A.W.B.A. president, Mrs. H. W. "Abbie" Aston, who certainly had her share of bowling highlights; Mrs. C. F. "Ted" Soder, who has won many team and individual awards as well as having the longest continuous service on the Executive Board; Mrs. Lou Calvert who started bowling in 1926 and was the first woman president of the greater Akron District Bowling Council and held

the office for 12 years; Freda Drew Johnson, who started bowling in 1927 and was a member of the Isaly Dairy Team. Mrs. Calvert and Mrs. Johnson are currently members of the Amelia Vernotzy Memorial League. There was Florence Ehrhardt Amrein, Akron's only WIBC National Tournament winner — 1926 Singles Champ; Alta Mentzer, who for many years held the highest three-game total — 737 — ever bowled by a woman in Akron and at one time held the national record; and several others who were State and Local champions.

As the years rolled on, many other women became prominent in Akron area bowling circles: Goldie Duffey, one of the best ever in Akron; Donna Zimmerman, now a professional bowler living in California and one of three ladies in Akron ever to roll a 300 game; Dorothy Focht, another of the 300-game bowlers, along with Donna Myers. There were the Ruby Loys, the Jo Stafinskis, the Marion Franks, Joann Lucas Yacobuccis, and Lou Gillespie Molenaurs — so many that it is impossible to name them all. Almost all of these well-known ladies remain prominent on the Akron bowling scene today. Many are members of the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame and the Tri-County Bowling Hall of Fame.

Mary Lou Keeling and Rosemary Kelly, probably the top doubles team in Akron for several years, just this past season rolled a team score of 1,370 to place fourth on the World Record list. Mrs. Keeling also rolled a 763, the highest three-game series ever rolled by a woman in Akron. Both Mrs. Keeling and Mrs. Kelly are members of the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame.

Other outstanding bowlers of today include Edith Burroughs, who most say is Akron's best at this time; and Bonnie Nicols, a former winner of the National 600 Club Tournament.

With competition as keen as it is today, it is difficult to single out a few as stars.

We would be remiss if we did not include some mention of the Akron Women's 600 Club, an affiliate of the National 600 Club. The 600 Club has hundreds of members who have at one time or another become eligible to join the organization by rolling a sanctioned 600 three-game series. The Club has several social functions during the year, topped by its annual tournament held each January. The tournament is a must for many of the top bowlers in the Akron area.

Also deserving mention is the Twenty Year Club, an organization for ladies who have at least twenty years of bowling behind them. This organization has been meeting for many, many years, with Leona Zimmerman as its first and only president.

All of these factors have helped make our Association strong. Certainly over the past 50 years there have been some difficulties but, they have been overcome and the Association has remained a fine example of people working together giving of their time and talents so that today's bowlers and those of the future will have the opportunity to become a member of this fine Association. The officers, directors, bowling proprietors, Bowling Council and all others have realized through the years that it took more than going to the lanes and knocking down the pins to make our Organization what it is today. These dedicated people are the backbone and the driving force behind the 50 years of the A.W.B.A.

It is our sincere hope that 1975, the year of our Golden Anniversary, not be the end of 50 years of growth and progress, but the beginning of new horizons and goals for THE AKRON WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION.

TEAM CITY TOURNAMENT WINNERS
1925 & 1975

KANDY KIDS
1925

Seated — Rose Marchal
L to R — Lucille Shaeffer

Standing — Florence Amrein
L to R — Joanne Nickerson
Ruth Ludlan

Below — L to R
Betty Cooper
Ilene Van Cleave
Karen Stewart
Dot Narney
Wilma McMasters

H & H Machine
Handicap
1975

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1975

L to R — Jo Paulini
Fran Keith
Donna Pappas
Dolly Palmer
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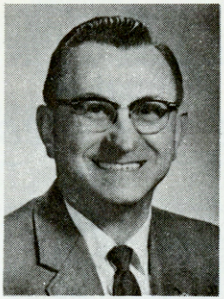

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DOUBLES — ACTUAL
1975

JUDY YEAGER — KATHY SMITH
DOUBLES — HANDICAP
1975

KLEA WEST

DOUBLES
1925

ABBIE ASTON

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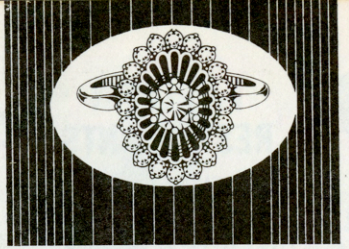

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1925

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ALL-EVENTS
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PROGRAM

Invocation..... Father Joseph Costello
Associate Pastor, St. Matthews Catholic Church

DINNER

Music by Joe Tonsic

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies..... Dorothy Focht, *Chairlady*
50th Anniversary Dinner

Introduction of Guests at Head Table..... Ruth Linamen
Mistress of Ceremonies

The Honorable John F. Seiberling..... *U. S. Congressman, Ohio's 14th District*

The Honorable John S. Ballard..... *Mayor, City of Akron*

Presentation of Proclamation

Beatrice Lane..... *Director, Women's International Bowling Congress*

Presentation of 50th Anniversary Plaque

Ruth Smith..... *President, Ohio Women's Bowling Association*
Mary Hurt..... *President, Akron Women's Bowling Association*
Donita Glenny..... *Secretary, Akron Women's Bowling Association*

Memorial..... Abbie Aston

Recognition of Charter Members

Recognition of Special Guests

Introduction of Speaker..... Ruth Linamen

Speaker..... Dorothy Fuldheim
Noted TV News Analyst

Benediction..... Father Costello

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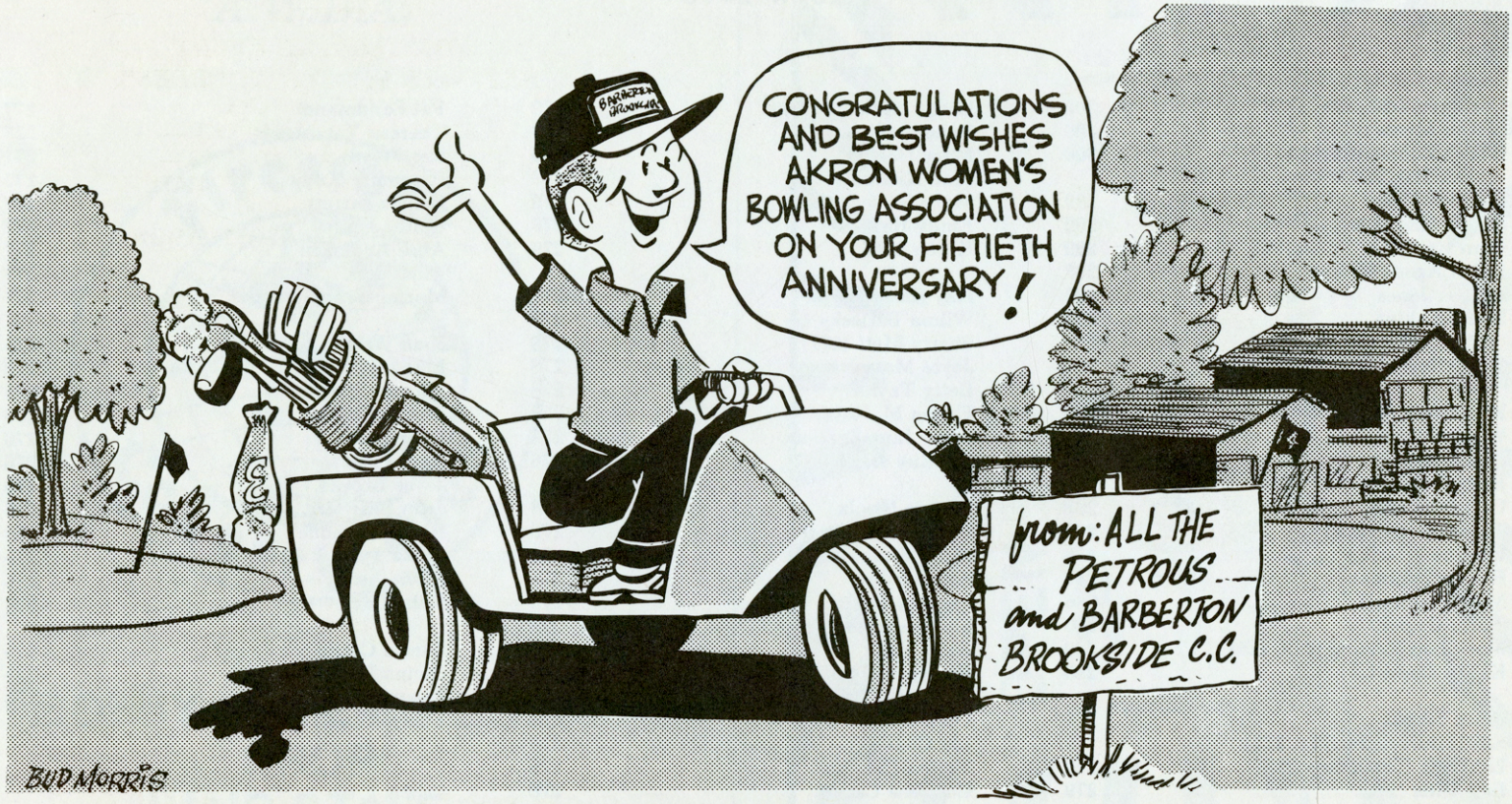
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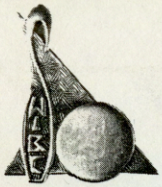
BUD MORRIS



A.W.B.A. — HIGH GAMES
1925-1975

Dorothy Focht (279, 276)	300
Donna Myers (277)	300
Donna Zimmerman (298, 290, 279, 278)	300
Barbara Reed	299
Jane Tatko (290)	299
Fran Keith	299
Helen Agnes Wright	298
Sharon Jones	297
Retha Lakins (288, 279, 277, 276, 275)	290
Gerry Reynolds (276)	290
Klea West	289
Wilma McMasters	289
Marie Royer	289
Betty Duhon	289
Gerry Cuppett	288
Thelma Ross (276)	288
Pauline Wotring	288
Bonnie Huffman	286
Mary Rummell	286
Grace Gagen	280
Mary Lou Keeling (279, 275)	280
Karan Dudash	280
Betty Franks	279
Edith Burroughs (278, 277)	279
LaVonne Humphrey (277)	279
Bev Mills (276)	279
Marilyn Schultz	279
Dottie Narney (277)	279
Roberta Finley	279
Mary Hurt	279
Jean Kitzmiller	279
Mary Garlock	279
Emily Barb	279
Karen Lees	279
Kay Easterday	278
Wilma Berlesky	278
Sherry Mott (277)	278
Joyce Matson	278
Betty Taylor	278
Emma M. Royer	278
Mary Jane Zganjar	278
Dorothy Haag	278
Bonnie Nicols	278
Shirley Swinehart	278
Micki Cunningham	278
Alta Mentzer	278
Dorothy Pandur	278
Maxine Lepley	278
Betty Bush	278
Evelyn Morgan	278
Eileen Gauer	278
Doris Roe	278
Ida Chafe	278
Norma Laughlin	278
Ethelene Carson	278
Lorene Garlando	278
Pat Sandmann	277
Theresa Vanckunas	277
Sue Floyd	277
Rosemary Kelly	277
Bertha Jarrett	277
Goldie Duffey	277
Alice Anderson	277
Alice Geis	277
Marian Frank	277
Joan Wright	276
Linda King	276
Marian Burgner	276
Dorothy Kelley (275)	276
Elsie Beam	276
Joan Liberko	276
Joyce Brooks	276
Jean Crawford	276
Barbara Renner	276
Edith Tyler	276
Abbie Aston	276
Ruby Loy	276
Carole Cutlip	275
Donna Lemons	275
Josephine Stafinski	275
Evelyn Stuart	275

(Taken from W.I.B.C. Records)

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Wilma McMasters	744	Ethelene Carson	718	Jane Tatko (701)	704
Donna Zimmerman (706)	742	Illene Van Cleave	716	Bev Mills (700)	703
Alta Mentzer	737	Grace Gagen	716	Donna Myers (702)	703
Dorothy Focht (736, 706, 705)	737	Sherry Mott	715	Dottie Narney	703
Edith Burroughs (727, 719, 712, 710, 707, 700)	731	Flo Kavlich	710	Jo Paulini	703
Joyce Matson	726	Retha Lakins	708	Barbara Bradcovich	700
Rosemary Kelly (711)	722	Kathy Dague	707	Fran Gathergood	700
Ruby Loy	722	Shirley Norman	707	Irene Mullins	700
Joan Wright (710, 706)	720	Goldie Duffey	706		
		Lucille Lamm	705	(Taken from W.I.B.C. Records)	

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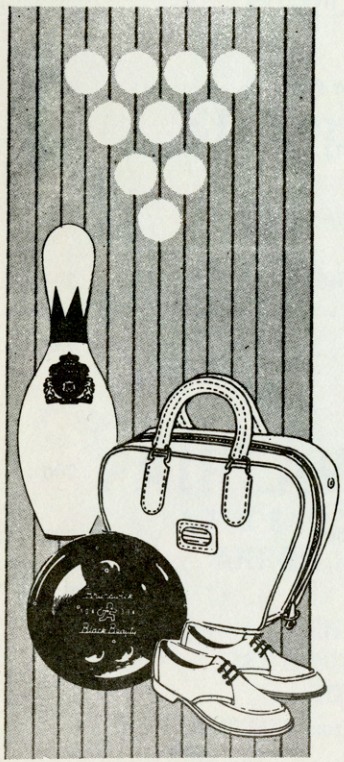

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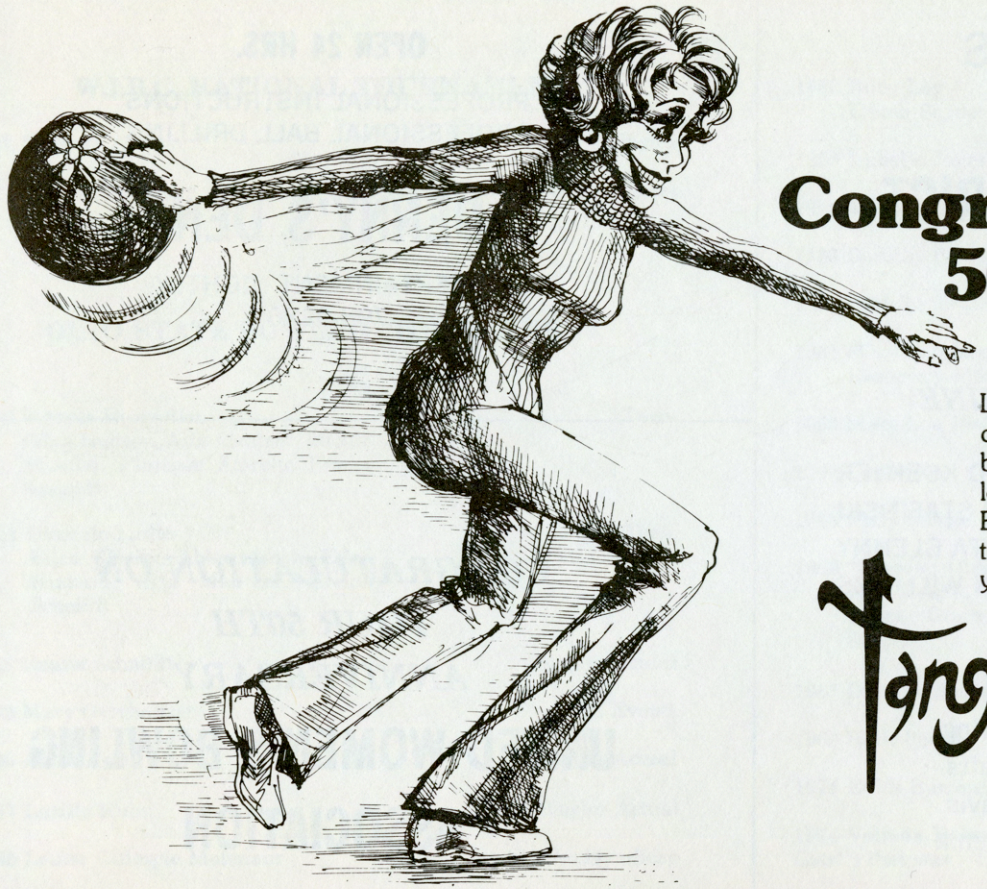

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— AKRON W.B.A. CHAMPIONS —

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1927 Florence Amrein - Singles

1949 Bonnie Rosenberg - W.I.B.C. Sweepstakes (Minor Class)

OHIO STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

1931 Temple Recreation -Team
Edna Hudson, Alta Mentzer, Lucille Shaeffer, Florence Amrein, Emma Schmidt

1932 Pocatalo Ladies -Team
Edna Theiss, Abbie Aston, Edna Hudson, Alta Mentzer, Emma Schmidt

1932 Emma Schmidt - Singles Actual

1933 Mary Overholtzer - All Events

1936 Abbie Aston - Singles Actual

1947 Lucille Kuhn - Singles Actual

1950 Louise Gillespie Molenaur - Singles Handicap

1951 Althea Richey - Singles Handicap

1952 Ruby Loy -
Emma Snyder Doubles Actual & Doubles Handicap

1953 Isabelle Jones-Goldie Duffey - Doubles Handicap

1953 Marian Frank - Singles Actual

1956 Dorothy Focht-Donna Zimmerman - Doubles Actual

1960 Ruth Little - Singles Handicap

1961 Mary Lou Keeling -
Rosemary Micheli Kelly - Doubles Actual

1962 Mary Lou Medrick-Louise Sparrow - Doubles Handicap

1962 Doris Roe - All Events

1966 Mary Longo - Singles Handicap

1966 "Cavalier Oldsmobile" -Team Handicap
Joan Wright, Marian Bryant, Melba Oakes, Grace Ault, Helen Agnes Wright

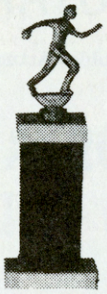
1967 Dorothy Bachtel -Singles Actual

1969 Ruth Puskas - Singles Actual

1974 Edith Burroughs - Singles Actual

1974 Velinda Robertson - sub'd on a team from Pomeroy WBA ("Alley Cats") that was - Team Handicap Champions.

(Taken from W.I.B.C. and State Records available)



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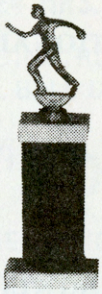

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FROM

The 20 Year Club
of the
Akron Women's Bowling Assoc.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE A.W.B.A.
— 1925 —

Lillian Swigart
Lillian Smith
*Elizabeth Gaughn
*Marie Smith
*Mary Fitzgerald
Ada Oliver
*Nell Chassagne
Florence Ehrhardt Amrein
*Rose Marchal
Ruth Ludlan
Abbie Aston
Dorothy Fellmeth Wells
*Emma Schmidt
*Ruth Hampson
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*Vesta McChesney
Marie Cline
*Anna Nedrow
Lucille Shaeffer
Joanne Nickerson
*Marie Riley
*Klea West
*Alice Edison Farabough
*Mary Overholtzer
Lydia Papp Myers
Helen Poe
Mildred Peters Cole
Haines
Kline
Pretzer

*Jo Mraz of Cleveland, Ohio	Organizer of Akron Association
Judge Owen Roderich	Charter Attorney
Abbie Aston	Founder

*Deceased

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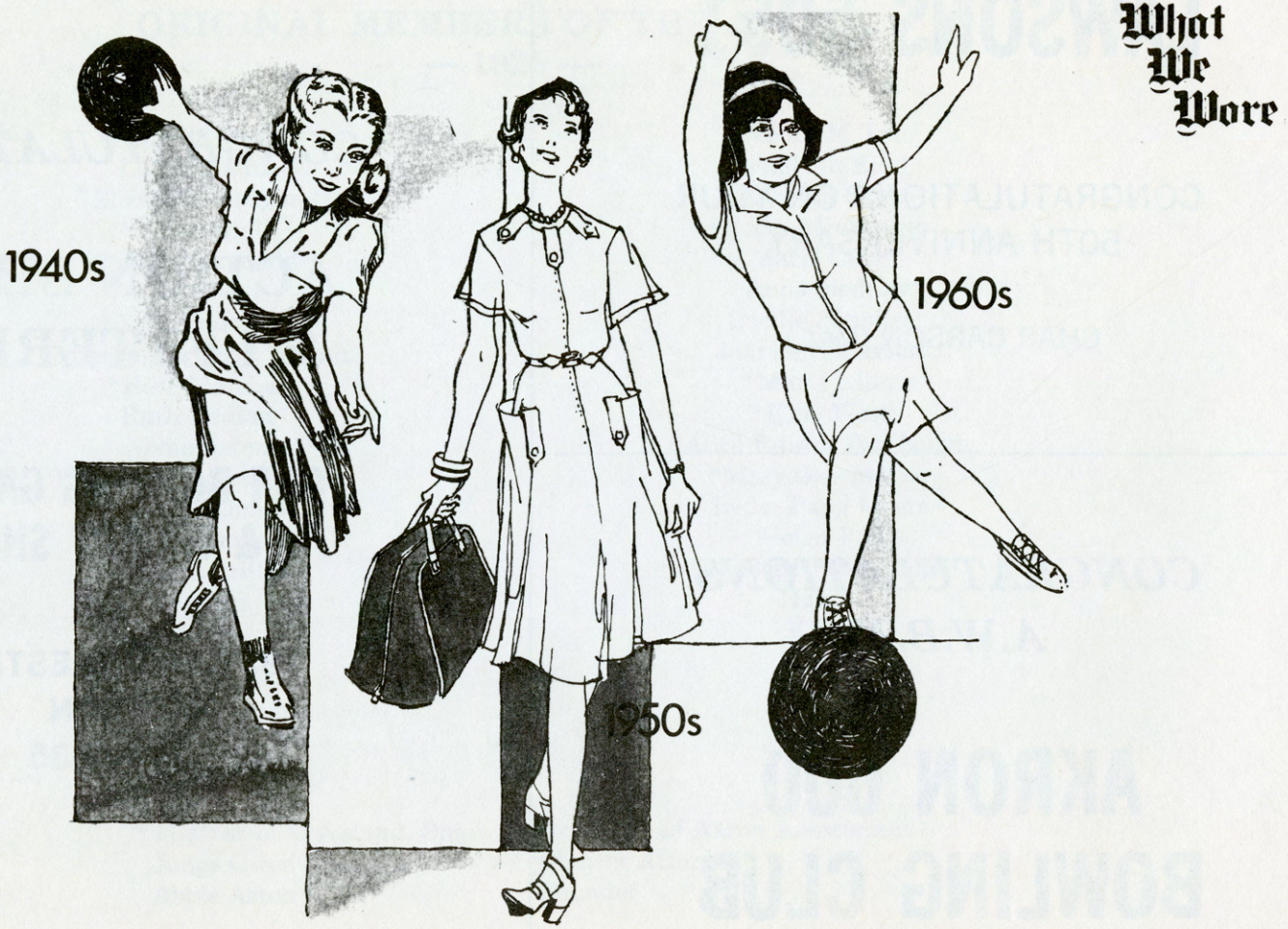

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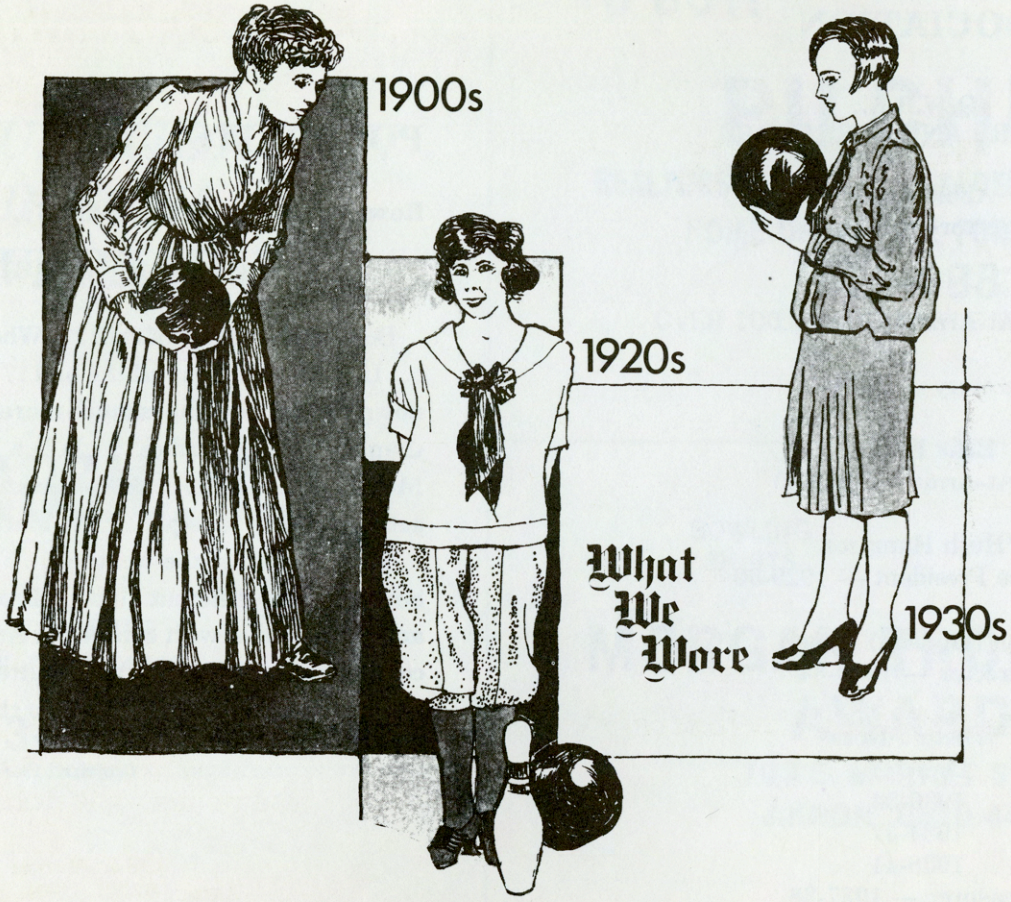

SOURCE — "THE WOMAN BOWLER"

AKRON WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION

O.W.B.A. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Abbie Aston
Director — 1932-33
1946-48

Sgt-At-Arms — 1930-32

Secretary — 1934-45

Elsie Frauns
Sgt-At-Arms — 1929-30

*Ruth Hampson
2nd Vice President — 1929-30

Edna (Hudson) Linton
Director — 1933-34

*Thelma Ross
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1934-37
1938-41
Treasurer — 1937-38

*Deceased

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RAFFLE TICKETS — Executive Board, also Pam Isakov, Carole Schoonover, June Ewing, Norma Skubiak, Jill McKinney, Maxine Orr, Ann Kallas, Jeanne Dunlap

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SCREENPRINT — Betty Bush

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CHARTER MEMBER RESEARCH — "Ted" Soder

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MEMORIAL — Abbie Aston

HISTORY — Rilla Yeater, Jo Stafinski

TYPISTS — Rilla Yeater, Cherie Manhart

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The information contained in this 50th Anniversary Program is, to the best of our knowledge, correct. It was gathered through past records, many phone calls and much correspondence.

If you have any corrections or additions, we would appreciate hearing from you. You may give the information to any one of the present Officers and Directors of the A.W.B.A. We will be grateful to you for your help.

Thank you

50th Anniversary Committee

AUTOGRAPHS

AKRON WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION

50th Anniversary Dinner

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DINNER 7:00 P.M.

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